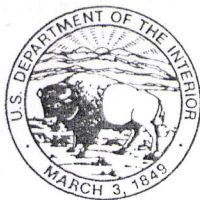


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MAY 31 2001

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

MAY 30 2001



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

U-77761
(UT-023)
3809

Certified Mail Number 7000 1670 0006 2991 2738
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Lon Thomas
Star Stone Quarries, Inc.
4040 South 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On January 18, 2001 we received your Plan of Operations for quarrying and stockpiling activities on your Rosebud #1 and #2 placer mining claims located in the W½ of Section 14, T. 10 N., R. 16 W., (UMC 354975-354976). Your plan is approved, subject to the following stipulations:

1. To reduce surface/vegetation disturbance, access to and from each quarry area shall be confined to existing routes of travel.
2. The operator is required to rip, scarify and revegetate the short access route leading to the "white quarry" at the conclusion of operations.
3. Because the project area is within crucial mule deer winter range, the operator is not authorized to conduct drilling activities, blasting activities or other surface disturbing activities from December 1 through April 15 during the life of the project.
4. The operator's proposal to burn trash "in a cleared area on site" is not authorized. Any trash or other wastes must be regularly removed from the quarry areas and disposed of in an authorized disposal facility, not on Public Land.
5. To prevent infestation of noxious weeds in the "Green" and "White" quarry areas and the adjacent BLM lands, and to reduce the spread of noxious weeds onto or from BLM lands, the operator is required to survey the quarry area access roads for noxious weeds and treat any found before flowering and after the first frost during each year of operation and for five years after the authorized operation ends. If the operator does not have sufficient experience and/or knowledge to identify noxious weeds, Box Elder County personnel can be requested to conduct the survey. The operator must use a herbicide, or combination of herbicides, at application rates which are appropriate to the species found. The operator

may apply the herbicide himself, or contract an outside party to spray the affected areas. In either case, the operator must demonstrate to the BLM that the spraying operation is being carried out and is successful.

6. All haul trucks, loaders, and other associated vehicles shall stay within the designated stockpile area, as outlined in the Plan of Operations. Overnight parking and storage of equipment/materials shall be confined to these areas.
7. The proponent shall affect a minimum of vegetative and soil disturbance consistent with practical mining operations.
8. The proponent is not authorized to store any debris or inoperable equipment on either quarry site.
9. The proponent shall maintain the site free of trash and refuse at all times during operations and at the termination of project activities.
10. No hazardous material (other than that listed by the operator in the proposed action) shall be stored or disposed of on-site. Petroleum spills of one-half quart or more will be immediately cleaned up and properly disposed of. For larger spills, the operator must contact the Salt Lake Field Office within 24 hours so that BLM hazardous material clean up policies and procedures are complied with.
11. At the conclusion of operations, the operator is required to excavate any and all quartzite waste rock material that has been placed on the mine dump west and south of the pre-existing access road adjacent to the "Green" quarry, and return this material to the "Green" quarry as part of final reclamation. The area west and south of the pre-existing access road must then be re-sloped to replicate the original topographic surface, then mulched and revegetated with live native seed as described in this Environmental Assessment. Revegetation shall be deemed to be accomplished and successful when the species intended for revegetation have achieved a surface cover of at least 70% of the representative vegetation communities surrounding the mine.
12. At the conclusion of operations, the operator is required to excavate any and all quartzite waste rock material that has been placed on the mine dump adjacent to the "White" quarry, and return this material to the "White" quarry as part of final reclamation. The area adjacent to the mine dump must then be re-sloped to replicate the original topographic surface, then mulched and revegetated with live native seed as described in this Environmental Assessment. Revegetation shall be deemed to be accomplished and successful when the species intended for revegetation have achieved a surface cover of at least 70% of the representative vegetation communities surrounding the mine.
13. During active operations, the operator is required to place a portable chemical toilet at the mine site and/or in the seasonal camp to handle human wastes. The portable chemical toilet must be regularly maintained and the contents of which shall not be allowed to

overflow or be discharged onto or be buried on Public Lands. The operator is not authorized to erect a pit toilet, outhouse, or any other structure for use in handling this human waste. If chemical toilets are present within either or both of the two temporary trailers at the seasonal camp, all human wastes must be disposed of properly, and not be allowed to overflow or be discharged onto or be buried on Public Lands.

14. Any wildfires originating by the operator, from the operation, or by the operator's employees will be immediately reported to the Salt Lake Interagency Fire Center at (801) 908-1900, and to the Salt Lake Field Office Manager at (801) 977-4300.
15. Star Stone Quarries must comply with all County, State and Federal standards and regulations.
16. Any proposed activity not authorized by this plan shall not proceed without prior approval of a plan amendment by this office.
17. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during the course of milling operations, all work at the point of discovery will cease and the Salt Lake Field Manager will be notified. Surface disturbance within 100 feet of the point of discovery is not authorized until a written notice to proceed is received by the operator from the Salt Lake Field Manager.
18. All operators shall maintain the site, structures and other facilities of the operation in a safe and clean condition during any non-operating periods. The operator will be required, after an extended period of non-operation for other than seasonal operations, to remove all structures, equipment or other facilities and reclaim the site of operations, unless he/she receives permission, in writing from the authorized officer to do otherwise. For the purposes of 43 CFR 3809.3-7, an extended period of non-operation is considered to be one year.
19. The existing public access road that passes through the "Green Quarry" must remain open and clear of equipment, excavated rock, workers, waste rock, etc. at all times during operations and during periods of shutdown so that other public land users may pass through the area.
20. Written notification will be provided to the BLM within 30 days of completion of operations and reclamation by the operator.

If you do not agree and are adversely affected by this decision, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.804, you may have the Utah BLM State Director review this decision. If you request a State Director review, the request must be received in the Utah BLM State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155, no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this decision. A copy of the request must also be sent to this office. The request must be in accordance with the provisions provided in 43 CFR 3809.805. If a State Director review is requested, this decision will remain in effect while the State Director review is pending, unless a

stay is granted by the State Director. Standards for obtaining a stay are given below. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

If the Utah State Director does not make a decision on whether to accept your request for review of this decision within 21 days of receipt of the request, you should consider the request declined and you may appeal this decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). You then have 30 days in which to file your notice of appeal with the IBLA (see procedures below).

If you wish to bypass the State Director review, this decision may be appealed directly to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Salt Lake Field Office, located at 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84119, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulations 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of this notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in the decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Ford of my staff at (801) 977-4360.

Sincerely,

GLENN A. CARPENTER

Glenn A. Carpenter
Field Office Manager

Enclosure

cc: D. Wayne Hedberg; Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining